

18

STATE
OF
AN INSTITUTION NEAR YORK,
CALLED THE
RETREAT for PERSONS
AFFLICTED WITH
Disorders of the Mind.



—O—

1796.

A
of
co
ha
fo
fe
on
fu

je
fr
co
p
o
o
b
d
a
th
b
fo
a
d
th
m
t

YORK, 1st of 7th Month, 1796.

A MEETING of Friends was held here the 28th of 6th Month, 1792, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of providing a retired habitation, with necessary advice, attendance, &c, for the Members of our Society, and others professing with us, who may be in a state of Lunacy, or so deranged in mind (not Idiots) as to require such a provision.

PERSONS of this description (who are truly objects of tender sympathy and compassion) are often, from the peculiar treatment which they require, necessarily committed wholly to the government of people of other Societies; by which means their own minds, and the feelings of their near connexions, are rendered more dissatisfied and uncomfortable, than would probably be the case, were they under the notice and care of those with whom they are connected in religious society. It appeared, therefore, very desirable, that an Institution should be formed, wholly under the government of Friends, for the relief and accomodation of such persons, of all ranks with respect to property. This would, doubtless, in some degree, alleviate the anxiety of their Relations, render the minds of the Patients more easy in their lucid intervals, and consequently tend to facilitate and promote their recovery.

THOUGH it may be said, that there are already many public Institutions of the kind, which render this unnecessary, yet it is evident, besides what has been remarked on this head in the former publications, that several peculiar and important advantages will accrue from an Institution confined to ourselves. As people of regular conduct, and even religiously disposed minds, are not exempt from this disorder, their confinement amongst persons in all respects strangers, and their promiscuous exposure to such company as is mostly found in public Institutions of this kind, must be peculiarly disgusting, and consequently augment their malady. This idea is not imaginary: for it is well known, that the situation of divers Members of our Society, hath, from this cause, been unspeakably distressing: a circumstance which must doubtless greatly retard, if not totally prevent their cure. On the other hand, when returning reason indicates a restoration of the mental powers, it may greatly tend to advance and establish the patient's recovery, to perceive himself under the direction of persons who, whilst they are careful to promote cheerful and salutary amusements, will be concerned, at suitable seasons, to cherish in them the strengthening and consolatory principles of Religion and Virtue, instead of dissipating these impressions, by such diversions as enfeeble the mind, and disqualify it for that solid reflection which leads to substantial peace and comfort.

IN conformity to these views and sentiments, Friends in divers parts of the Nation have contributed towards this Establishment. About eleven acres of ground, in a very eligible situation near York, have been purchased, and a House erected, with apart-

apartments suitable for the accomodation of Friends in any circumstances of life. The following are the Regulations which have been adopted.

1st. THAT the Institution be established and supported by Annuities, Donations, and annual Subscriptions; and that the same (which should be altogether voluntary) be promoted amongst Friends within the compass of any quarterly Meeting.

2d. THAT each Subscriber, by way of Annuity, contributing a sum not less than twenty pounds, shall receive an interest of five per cent. per annum, during life: and as the undertaking may not be able to pay this interest, and otherwise maintain itself, for the first three years, that those entered as Subscribers for annual payments, be engaged for three years certain, in case the Subscriber should so long live.

3d. THAT a contribution of one hundred pounds, from any quarterly or other Meeting in its collective capacity, or a donation of twenty-five pounds from any Friend, or a subscription of fifty pounds for an annuity, shall entitle such Meeting, Donor, or Annuitant, respectively, to the privilege of nominating one poor Patient at a time, on the lowest terms of admission.

4th. THAT the name of every Annuitant, Donor, and Subscriber, be recorded in a book to be kept for that purpose; and that every Annuitant, Donor of not less than two guineas, and Subscriber of sums in any manner equal to two guineas (being and continuing a Member of our Society), shall be a Member of the Meetings which are to be held for the government and superintendance of the Institution.

5th. THAT

5th. THAT there be paid for Board, Washing, medical Advice and Medicines, and all other things necessary, except clothing, for every poor Patient privileged agreeably to the third Rule, a sum not less than four shillings per week.

6th. THAT not less than eight shillings per week be paid for other Patients, and more according to circumstances; and six shillings per week for the board of the servant of a Patient, in case their friends should incline to send one: which servant must be approved by the Committee. The terms of admission to be subject to future alteration, if found necessary.

7th. As the benefit of the proposed Institution is intended to extend to those who are not strictly Members of our Society, it is agreed that Subscriptions may also be received from such persons.

8th. IN case any quarterly Meeting be so small, or its Members not in an eligible situation to raise one hundred pounds, the General Meeting of Subscribers shall have power, on application, to extend the privilege of the third Rule to such Meetings, on contributing a smaller sum, at the discretion of the said General Meeting.

9th. FOR the satisfaction of Subscribers on life annuities, and those who have lent, or may hereafter lend, any money to this Institution, this Meeting declares, that the whole real and personal property thereunto belonging, acquired; and to be acquired, shall stand and continue a security to the said life Annuitants, for the annual payment of their interest, and to the Lenders aforesaid, for the regular payment of principal and interest.

10th. THAT

10th. THAT the privilege of Meetings or Persons to recommend poor Patients on the lowest terms of admission, according to the third and eighth Rules of 9th month, 1794, shall not be taken away or diminished, notwithstanding any general powers which are or may be invested in the future Directors.

11th. THAT a Meeting of the Subscribers qualified according to the fourth Rule of the same date, be held in the latter end of the 6th month, or beginning of the 7th month of every year, unless some other time should hereafter be found more convenient; which Meeting shall be denominated the General Meeting; and the Friends who may compose it shall, from time to time, have a general state of the family, and accounts of the Institution, laid before them, and (except the two preceding minutes which relate to securities to Annuitants, to Lenders of money, and to privileged Meetings and Subscribers) shall have power to alter, make Rules, and give such directions, as they may think best adapted to promote the designs of the Institution; and to appoint a Treasurer, who shall keep and dispose of the money entrusted to him, as the said Meeting shall direct; they shall also confirm, alter, or abrogate the Orders and Regulations of any other Meetings of the Subscribers, and shall choose annually a Committee for the immediate care and management of the Undertaking. This Committee are to meet once a month at farthest; fix the terms of admission for the different Patients; make out clear and distinct accounts of the state of the Institution; and carry into execution the Rules and Orders made for promoting its welfare.

12th. THAT

12th. THAT, during, or after the conclusion of each quarterly Meeting of Friends for Yorkshire, the qualified Subscribers are to meet and examine the said Committee's accounts, read over all their minutes, advance or reduce the weekly payment of any of the Patients, and give the Committee such advice and direction as they may think proper, consistently with the general Rules and Orders that may have been established.

13th. THAT, in order to provide for a perpetual succession of Directors, the General Meeting shall, in, or before, the year 1800, nominate and appoint forty Subscribers, Members of our Society, who, with their successors, as hereafter directed to be appointed, shall from thenceforth (together with any other qualified Donor or Subscribers, and Agents that may be appointed by any qualified Meeting, that may from time to time choose to attend) be the General Meeting, and continue the Directors of the Institution, in whom the government of it shall thereafter perpetually vest and remain; any ten of whom shall be sufficient to do business. The said forty Directors, or any eight of them, with any other qualified Donors or Subscribers, to meet quarterly for the aforesaid purposes of the quarterly Meeting of Subscribers.

14th. THAT on the first appointment of the said forty Directors, their names are to be carefully and suitably arranged and recorded; and, at the expiration of each year after the said appointment, the first named eight on said list are to cease to be Directors, and eight others, Members of our Society, appointed by the Meeting in their place (with an addition
for

for such as may be deceased or disowned), any of whom may be chosen from the number of Donors and Subscribers, or others, as shall, in process of time, be judged most convenient and best.

15th. IF, at any future period, by means of some unforeseen or unexpected events, it should appear to the General Meeting, that the original purpose of the Undertaking cannot be accomplished or pursued, the said General Meeting shall give due notice in writing to all the Directors, and also to every quarterly or other Meeting of our Society which, according to the Rules, may be interested therein, that the disposal of the property of the Institution is to be taken under consideration at their next Meeting; at which Meeting two Agents or Representatives, appointed by any of the said Meetings, shall be admitted as Members of the General Meeting: and in case two-thirds of the Meeting so convened shall agree thereto, they may sell or dispose of the whole estate and property of the Institution, or of any part thereof, or appropriate the same, or the neat produce thereof, to such just, equitable, or charitable uses, as they, on serious and deliberate consideration, shall judge best.

16th. A Quarter of a year's maintenance for each Patient is to be regularly paid in advance; and in case the Patient should be cured, or die before the expiration of the first quarter, no part thereof is to be returned; but, after the first quarter, return is to be made for the number of whole weeks unexpired, at the time of removal, or decease of a Patient.

17th. ON the admission of Patients, the Committee should, in general, require a certificate, signed
B by

by a medical person, to the following import: "I do hereby certify, that A B of C, aged — years, is in a state of Insanity, and proper to be received into a house provided for the relief of persons of that description." — It is also desirable, that some account should be sent, how long the Patient has been disordered; whether any, or what sort of medical means have been used; and whether any disposition has appeared in the Patient to injure him or herself, or any other person; with any other circumstances likely to throw light on the case relative to his or her treatment.

18th. As the Committee is not to admit any Patient, on lower terms than eight shillings per week, unless recommended by the Agent of a privileged Meeting, or a Subscriber qualified according to the third Rule, it is hoped that individual Subscribers will be cautious of recommending Patients, whose maintenance, or any part thereof, is paid by a monthly or other Meeting, to the saving of the expence of the Members of such Meetings collectively, thereby rendering it unnecessary for them to subscribe to the Institution: but no discouragement is hereby intended to the assistance of Friends whose circumstances, or those of their near connexions are too strait to pay eight shillings per week.

19th. As it is necessary to ascertain the Subscriptions of each Meeting that may have a right to recommend Poor Patients, Donors of twenty-five pounds and upwards, are desired to explain, whether they wish to enjoy the privilege, during life, of recommending Poor Patients, or that their Donations shall be considered as the Subscription of
their

their quarterly or other Meetings: and it is agreed, that all Donations of individuals (not claiming such right of recommendation) shall be considered as the Subscriptions of the quarterly Meeting to which they respectively belong, whether reported to such Meetings, or not; and every quarterly Meeting shall enjoy the privilege of recommending Poor Patients, in proportion to the Subscriptions of their respective Members.

THE Committee reports, "that the additional wing of the Building, as directed by the last quarterly Meeting of Subscribers, is in great forwardness; that the Donations to this Institution amount to £1789. 2s. 6d, to which may be added fifty pounds fallen in by the decease of an Annuitant; that the annual Subscriptions amount to £51. 9s; that the Institution remains subject to the payment of five per cent. per annum to life Annuitants, on the sum of £875; and that the several sums borrowed on interest, towards completing the Building, amount to £1245."

THOUGH the annual Subscriptions were engaged only for three years certain, yet we hope they will be continued for some time longer, according to the freedom of the Subscribers.

As this Institution is now beginning to operate, and affords an encouraging hope, that, if properly supported, it will be productive of considerable utility, the General Meeting again recommends it to

the serious attention of Friends. They who think the object worthy their attention, may be encouraged to promote it, not only on a principle of Charity to the Poor, but even from compassion to those in easy and affluent circumstances, who will doubtless think themselves benefitted, though they may pay amply for it. The Friends who have embarked in this Undertaking, have not been influenced by interested views, nor are they requesting or desiring any favours for themselves. A malady, in many instances, the most deplorable that human nature is subject to, hath excited their sympathy and attention; and they invite such Friends as approve of their design, to co-operate with them in an Establishment, which hath for its object, the mitigation of human misery, and the restoration of those, who are lost to civil and religious Society: in the prosecution of which, they humbly rely on the favour of Him, whose tender Mercies are over all his works.

Amount

	Annuities.	Donations.	Annual for 3 Years.
	£.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
<i>Amount in 9th mo. 1794</i>	875	1443 19 6	46 4 0
Subscriptions since that time, as follows.			
<i>Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.</i>			
William Lucas		5 5 0	
George Exton		5 5 0	
John Ransom		4 4 0	
Joshua Wheeler		5 5 0	
Mary Ransom			2 2 0
<i>Cambridgeshire and Hunt :</i>			
Ellington Wright		2 2 0	
Do. in addition		1 1 0	
<i>Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire.</i>			
John Bakewell		2 2 0	
<i>Durham Q. Meeting</i>		50 0 0	
Do. in addition		30 0 0	
<i>Effex.</i>			
John Kendal		25 0 0	
Anonymous		5 5 0	
Joseph Smith		1 1 0	
William Grover		5 5 0	
<i>Lancashire.</i>			
Jos. Atkinson, Hatter		25 0 0	
Elizabeth Atkinson		5 5 0	
Thomas Whitwell		5 5 0	
Thomas Watt		5 0 0	
Carried over	875	1626 9 6	48 6 0

	Annuities.	Donations.			Annual for 3 Years.		
	£.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Brought over	875	1626	9	6	48	6	0
Elizabeth Whalley		3	3	0			
Hannah Whitwell		3	3	0			
John Whitwell		2	2	0			
John Bludwick		2	2	0			
M. H. and A. Clare		2	2	0			
Caleb Sibson		1	1	0			
Ashton Meeting		2	4	0			
<i>London and Middlesex.</i>							
Executors of the late Elizabeth Talwin		100	0	0			
J. Townshend Jun.		5	5	0			
W. S. Fry, addition		4	0	0			
<i>Norfolk.</i>							
John Birkbeck		10	10	0			
<i>Northamptonshire.</i>							
Benj. Middleton					1	1	0
<i>Scotland.</i>							
Jane Waldie		1	1	0			
Alex. Cruickshank		2	2	0			
<i>Yorkshire.</i>							
Joseph Awmack		5	5	0			
John Mafon		5	5	0			
George Myles		5	5	0			
Benjamin Jowit		5	5	0			
Joseph Tatham		2	2	0			
John Belton					2	2	0
R. Cockin, addition		1	1	0			
£.	875	1789	2	6	51	9	0

Application for the admission of Patients, or contributions for the support of the Institution, may be communicated to WILLIAM TUKE.

